



UA 372

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of )

SASOWSKY et al. )

Serial No. 09/776,298 )

Filed February 2, 2001 )

For A METHOD FOR REMOVING  
METALS FROM AQUEOUS  
SOLUTIONS USING MIXED  
LITHIC MATERIALS )

Group Art Unit 1724

C. Barry, Examiner

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Kimberly A. Bright, Interim Secy. to Mark L. Weber

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TC 1700**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 8, 2002, the Applicants,  
through their attorney, respond with the following amendments and remarks.

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, and 11 as anticipated by Behrends '433. The Examiner contends that Behrends, at column 8, lines 4-11, describes draining acidic mine drainage (AMD) liquid through a bed of river gravel and limestone. The cited section of the Behrends reference is presumably employed to anticipate claims 1-4. The Examiner further holds that the river gravel and limestone taught in Behrends appears to meet the limitations of "large blocks," thereby anticipating claim 6. As to claims 8, 9, and 11, the Examiner holds that the container holding the bed of particles in Behrends is structurally indistinguishable from a "pipe" and that a pump is employed to add AMD to the beds. Claim 6 has been cancelled, and reconsideration of the remaining claims is respectfully requested based upon the arguments presented below.

Having fully considered Behrends and all that it teaches, Applicants